

PALMS from DEIGAARD'S

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CALIFORNIA

PALMS

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Outside of California and Florida few other parts in the United States are blessed with a subtropical climate which will permit an abundance of "tropical plants". Amongst these tropicals are numerous species of palms. Under the artistic hands of skilled landscape architects, palms, in recent years, have taken top ranking place as accent plants in our landscape with great and convincing success.

Palms with their great variation in form, qualities, and hardiness may be grown and cultivated in areas heretofore thought of as impossible.

Without doubt there are many varieties which will thrive in certain sections of the Southwest and California not adorned by palms today. They will add to the choice of those already sufficiently known and used for home, park or avenue.

Deigaard Nurseries in the last 10 years have devoted a great deal of their efforts to bring back into the trade long known varieties of merit and acceptance and are continuously endeavoring to try out other species for adaptability and merits. There is a great upswing foreseen in the culture and distribution of this queen of all plants.

The culture of palms is simple: Water regularly and fertilize during the warm months of spring and summer with an organic fertilizer, preferably 8-8-4. In order to harden up palms for winter endurance, withhold fertilizing and heavy watering in fall. Recommended as a guide to palm growers is the excellent book by William Hertrich, past curator emeritus of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, titled "Palms and Cycads". (Price—\$5.00 plus 4% tax.) Join The Palm Society, 7229 S. W. 54th Ave., Miami 43, Florida.

PINNATE PALMS

(Feather palms with long leaves, leaflets extending from a midrib)

ARCHONTOPHOENIX CUNNINGHAMIANA (Seaforthis elegans, native of New South Wales)—Fig. 1. Height to 30 feet or over, slender, smooth trunk, sheds old leaves voluntarily. Always clean and neat. We prefer it therefore to *Cocos plumosa*. Gracefully recurving leaves may attain 10 feet in length. Very beautiful and elegant at all stages of growth. Additional attraction is the cluster of lilac flowers on the naked trunk below leaves, followed by heavy clusters of scarlet fruits. Will stand only little cold, about to 28 degrees. Excellent in groups. A superb plant for coastal areas, does also well in coastal valleys if protected. Likes full sun or part shade.

ARCHONTOPHOENIX ALEXANDRAE (*Ptychosperma A.*)—Similar to *Seaforthis elegans*, but with an enlarged basic trunk, and creamy white flowers instead of lilac.

ARECASTRUM ROMANZOFFIANUM (*Cocos Plumosa*, Queen Palm or Feather Cocos, from Brazil)—Fig. 9. Tall, upright, smooth stem, very graceful with bright green leaf fronds, most popular palm in Southern California today. Sometimes injured by severe frost, but except in very small sizes, usually recovers quickly. An effective palm to plant near the house or in pairs, groups or borders. No spines, therefore good about pools and as street trees. One of the most graceful, most adaptable and least stiff of all our palms. Fairly fast grower, eventually reaching 30 or 40 ft., with a 10 to 15 inch trunk. Its smooth, graceful trunk is one of the principal charms of this palm.

ARENGA ENGLERI—A low bushy palm from Formosa with broad fronds on multiple stems, will prefer shade but stands full sun, fairly hardy, slow grower. Will become a favorite if better known, and more readily available. Presently we have only few small specimens.

CARYOTA MITIS—This is a dwarf variety of the tropical fish-tail palms. Forms a clump, making it adaptable for pot or tub culture in conservatory and protected patio. Too tender for outdoors and not recommended except as collectors' item and rarity.

BUTIA CAPITATA (hardy blue Cocos, *Cocos Australis*)—Fig. 14. This palm will stand more frost and heat, more drought, floods, exposure and hardship of every kind and yet continue to look better as an ornamental palm or lawn specimen than any other variety. Will survive a temperature of 15 degrees. Silverblue recurved leaf fronds, arching gracefully to the base. Makes trunk very slowly, maintaining its beautiful bushy form until a good size. Fine for tubs or boxes. Has been rather neglected in favor of the faster growing *Cocos plumosa*, but is equally worthy and should be planted much more freely. Its color makes it a striking individual specimen on a green lawn. An admirable palm for roadsides where there is a wide parking or no sidewalk. Looks particularly well interspersed with some taller slender palm or a tall tree such as Cypress, etc.

CHAMAEDOREA SPECIES—This group of small palms, we think, will be widely used and liked in future years in California. Shade loving, but susceptible to lower temperatures, they are distinguished by special and sometimes exquisite characteristics of handsome shape of leaf, colorful seeds or habit of growth. Ringed or jointed cane-like trunks add to the attractive appearance. What a promising field for the palm lover! Only few varieties grown and offered by specialists.

CHAMAEDOREA COSTARICAENSIS—Forms stolons for multiplication.

CHAMAEDOREA ELEGANS (*Collinia elegans*)—Fig. 13. The species commonly grown as *Neanthe bella* is a useful handsome little pot plant, will grow outdoors in protected shaded locations into solitary or clustered specimen with dwarf bamboo-like trunks, and is very effective as filler or group planting.

CHAMAEDOREA ERUMPENS—Grows in clumps.

CHAMAEDOREA GEONOMIFORMIS—Large, undivided leaves; an interesting species for a special shady corner.

CHAMAEDOREA GRAMINIFOLIA—As the name indicates, a palm of fine grass-like foliage, long and slender, delicately graceful and extremely beautiful. Will tolerate dense shade.



1 **Archontophoenix Cunninghamiana**
(Seaforthis elegans)



2 **Erythea armata**
(Mexican Blue Fan Palm)



5 **Chamaerops excelsa**
(Trachycarpus fortunei)



6 **Phoenix reclinata**



3 **Kentia forsteriana**



4 **Chamaerops humilis**



7 **Phoenix "Roebelini"**
(Pigmy Date Palm)

PALMS from DEIGAARD'S

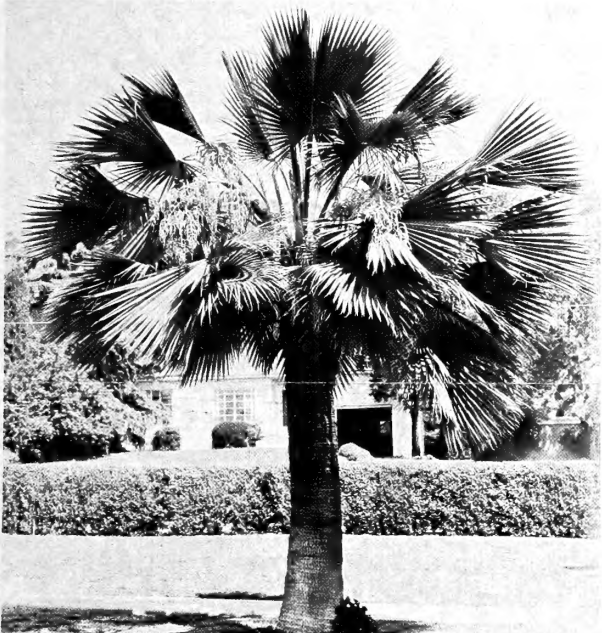
(PINNATE PALMS—Continued)



8 **Cycas revoluta**
(Sago Palm)



9 **Arecastrum romanzoffianum**
(Cocos Plumosa)



10 **Erythea edulis**
(Guadalupe Fan Palm)



11 **Trithrinax acanthocoma**



12 **Rhopalostylis sapida**
(Shaving Brush Palm)

JUBAEA SPECTABILIS (Chilean Palm or Monkey Coconut)—A robust, single palm with fronds to 12 feet long. Has a stout heavy trunk when it gets older. Much harder than most pinnate palms. A native of Chile, it is threatened with extermination because the natives fell the palms in great quantities for the sweet syrup they contain and of which a delicious brew is made!

KENTIA FORSTERIANA or *Howea forsteriana* and *H. belmoreana*—Fig. 3. Both are more widely known as Kentias, or Paradise palms. Natives of Lord Howe Island near New Zealand. These are the handsome, distinctive looking palms that grace lobbies, display rooms and conservatories and are shipped for this purpose to Eastern markets. In Southern California, Howes may also be grown successfully outdoors in coastal areas where they require shaded locations in ferneries, rockeries, patios or planter boxes. As specimen plants in pots and tubs they cannot be rivalled. Most of our plants are grown in groups of three in a pot. Available also in tubs. *HOWEA BELMOREANA* grows slower, leaves are gracefully curved, long-pointed and smaller than *Howea forsteriana*. *HOWEA CANTERBURYANA* (*Hedycepe C.*). Taller and stouter, with artistically recurving leaves. Tender.

PHOENIX OR DATE PALMS—This is the most widely known group of palms being cultivated in almost all parts of the world. The Phoenix dactylifera, grown for its edible fruit, is seldom used for ornamental purposes, except in Phoenix, Arizona. Of the many varieties, we grow the following:

PHOENIX CANARIENSIS (Canary Island Date)—Hardy. Tall growing with massive trunk and a spread of 30 feet. Long graceful leaves, almost drooping to ground. Suitable only for wide areas to highway, park and lawn planting. When young makes a fine pot and tub plant. Ultimate height 40 to 50 feet.

PHOENIX LOUREIRI (*Ph. roebelinii*)—Fig. 7. Pigmy date palm. Dwarf with beautiful, graceful, finely cut, arching, dark green foliage. Excellent for tub or planter with its fernlike feathery leaves and delicate appearance, it is truly an aristocrat of the palms and deserves a place wherever a frost free and partly shaded location can be provided. Slowly forms a slender brown trunk, picturesque and makes a refined landscape object, because it will not exceed 6 to 8 feet in height.

PHOENIX RECLINATA—Fig. 6. Another choice one of the Phoenix group. Fairly fast growing and mostly known, if trunked, by its slender leaning habit. Picturesque and full of individuality. Throws out suckers from the base and unless removed, will form dense clump. Leaves long and gracefully recurved. Most of our trees are grown from seeds imported from Senegal (Africa) and therefore of the true type, with slender stem usually 10-12 inches in diameter. Good landscape specimen because of its tropical appearance. Hardy to 28 degrees except in its baby stage.

PHOENIX RUPICOLA—Uncommon and rare. Outstanding for its graceful foliage and its slender trunk (10-12 inches), height 20 to 25 feet. All our efforts to obtain seeds have been a failure so far.

PHOENIX ZEYLANICA—Originally native of Ceylon. Ours are probably hybrids. Trunk heavier than *Phoenix reclinata* and densely covered with leaf bases. Hardy in Southern California and sometimes has more than one head.

RHOPALOSTYLIS SAPIDA (*Nikau*)—Fig. 12. Exceedingly unusual and handsome palm, similar to *Seaforthia* but with stiffly ascending upright foliage in dense crown, which gives it the name "Shaving Brush Palm". 20-25 feet tall, elegant smooth trunk, pale pink flowers, scarlet fruit, produced at base of bulging crownshaft below leaves. Outstanding and spectacular. From New Zealand. Scarce.

ROYSTONEA ELATA (*Oreodoxa*)—Tender, we are trying them on the coast. Handsome, common palm of South Florida. Grows to 80 feet or more, smooth grey trunk, many dark glossy green up to 20 foot long pinnate leaves.

CYCAS REVOLUTA (Sago Palm)—Fig. 8. Native of Japan. Very dwarf and compact with many shining, dark green leaves which appear as if waxed, growing as a crown on top of the trunk. Long fronds of the finely divided feather type. Thick, heavy stem, which in small plants resembles a pineapple, but almost black. Splendid for lawn specimen or palm groups. Also recommended for tub or planter use. *Cycas revoluta* will grow in sun or shade to an ultimate height of 6-10 feet, very, very slowly.



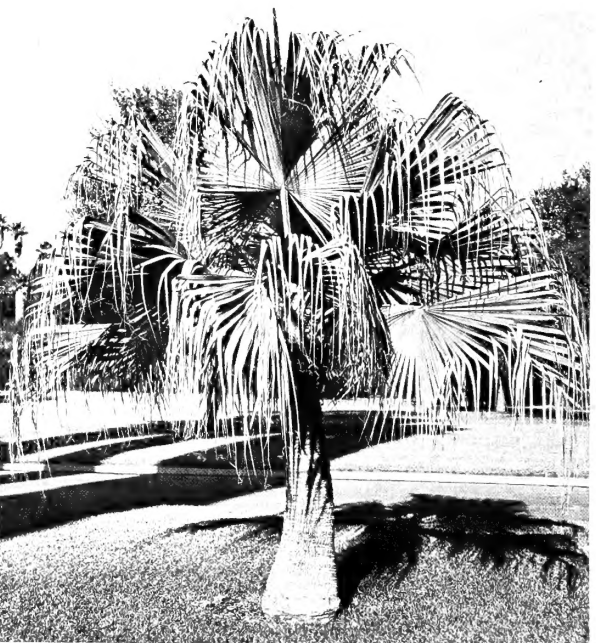
13 **Chamaedorea elegans**
(Neanthe Bella)



14 **Butia capitata**
(Cocos australis)



15 **Washingtonia robusta**



16 **Livistona chinensis**
(Fountain Palm)



17 **Sabal Palm**
(Palmetto Palm)

PALMATE PALMS

(Fan palm, leaves shaped like the palm of a hand)

CHAMAEROPS EXCELSA (*Trachycarpus fortunei*)—Fig. 5. (Japanese Windmill Fan Palm, also Hairy Palm.) Slender trunks clothed with thick fibrous hairs, dense head of windmill-like leaves, large yellow clusters of blossoms followed by great bunches of blue berries the size and color of Concord grapes. Slow grower, very hardy in all respects: heat, drought, cold and wind, but likes heavy soil best, difficult to grow in coarse sand or gravel unless given plenty of water. Attains a height of 15 to 20 feet in 25 years. A good palm for pairs at the entrance or along narrow walks or drives, also effective in groups. Very good while young, may be used as tub plant.

CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS (Dwarf Fan Palm)—Native of Southern Europe. (Fig. 4.) Somewhat resembles the preceding, but much more dwarf in habit and leaf stems armed with sharp spines, drought resistant, very hardy, standing 15 degrees of frost; fine palm for specimen plant. Leaves small and very abundant, clothing trunk to the base, which is rarely over 3 to 4 feet. In maturity will attain height of 10 to 12 feet. Some plants sucker freely and form a dense clump, therefore making an extremely beautiful tub plant which will endure full sun as well as cold. Many of our plants are larger in width than in height.

CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS ARGENTEA—Foliage silvery-blue, almost whitish.

CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS MACROCARPA—With an exceptionally large seed.

CHAMAEROPS MARTIANUS—Similar but of slower growth with an interesting thin slender trunk. From India.

CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS NANA—Extremely low clumps of many side shoots, reaching 24 inches in 7 years. Dwarf accent plants. Very rare.

ERYTHEA ARMATA (Blue Fan Palm)—Fig. 2. 25-30 ft. An unusual palm, silvery-blue, almost white in color, very attractive on dark background. Unusually hardy, being a native of the dry section of lower California. Not injured by cold at 18 degrees, stands any amount of heat, sunshine and drought. Rather slow growth, forming a large rounded clump of leaves for several years before it begins to develop a trunk. A splendid palm for inter-setting between other trees on roadsides, perfectly hardy, needing no attention or water after the first season, and making a striking contrast with other planting. Flower clusters to 15 feet long, pendulous almost to ground.

ERYTHEA EDULIS (Guadalupe Fan Palm)—Fig. 10. 25-30 ft. The best fan palm in California, but for some unknown reason very seldom planted. Leaves larger, of better shape and richer green in color than either of the Washingtonias, retaining the bright color and fresh appearance all through the winter when other fan palms are yellow or brown. Does not begin to make a trunk quickly, but the trunk is prettier and smoother, the leaves shedding readily from the trunk after drying without the use of knife.

LIVISTONA—A genus of about 30 species, best known of these are:

LIVISTONA AUSTRALIS—A palm rare in Southern California where it ought to be more plentiful. Fan palm with slender trunk and compact head, rather more graceful than any of the Washingtonias (the common California Fan Palm) and growing more slowly than these, to 50 feet. While young makes a beautiful pot or tub plant, not stiff, but leaf stems spreading in a graceful, arching form, very attractive. Will grow anywhere, but especially beautiful in shade, developing a peculiar glossy sheen and luster of foliage. Affected by heavy frost (20 degrees) but the palm is seldom harmed, developing new growth rapidly.

LIVISTONA CHINENSIS—Fig. 16. From China and Japan and well adapted to our temperate zone, height to 25 feet. Trunk brown, vaguely ringed about 1 foot thick. The abundant segments of the leaves are gracefully drooping at ends, giving the tree the appearance of a fountain wherefrom stems its name "the Fountain Palm". Fruit like an olive of a metallic blue, very abundant and handsome.

RHAPIS EXCELSA or *flabelliformis*—Exceptionally decorative and rare. Forming dense clumps of many individual stems of 6-8 feet height. Fine for foundation planting or framing in doorways; although somewhat stiff in appearance, they make good specimen plants in tubs or planters. Like shade and rich soil. Leaves are sought by decorators for flower arrangements. Very scarce.

SABAL PALMS (*Palmettos*)—Fig. 17. Generally of slow growth, seldom attaining any trunk in the first six to ten years. Very hardy. Of massive heavy appearance and with their broad fan leaves blending artistically into tropical plantings. We grow several varieties. All seed obtained from specimen in Southern California, and all are adapted to our climate. Sabals have been neglected in Southern California planting. Because of their ornamental value, may have a decided importance in future landscaping.

SABAL BLACKBURNIANA (*Blackburn's palmetto*)—Taller of the species, leaves large, drooping and very handsome. One of the stateliest and most decorative of Sabals. Also known under the name of *S. umbraculiformis*, meaning "shade maker", because of its massive luxuriant recurving foliage.

SABAL BLACKBURNIANA VAR. TEXANA—A sub variety of the previous and native of both the Mexican and Texas sides of the lower Rio Grande River. Heavier, larger crown and of shorter and stouter trunk. Fan shaped leaves may attain 8-9 feet in width, are strongly curved and the outside part is divided into as many as 100 segments. *Sabal texana* is a favorite ornamental palm in Texas.

SABAL DEERINGIANA: also known as *S. Louisiana*, or *S. minor*—Bush palmetto, dwarf without a trunk, or low trunk only. Leaves 3 feet wide, deeply cleft into numerous divisions with long, smooth erect leaf stalks. This palm is handsome and because of its tropical appearance will become a favorite of landscape architects after it becomes better known and more readily available.

SABAL EXUL (*Victoria palmetto*)—Large palm, vivid green foliage.

SABAL MEXICANA (*Oaxaca palmetto*)—Large leaves with a bluish tint or stout trunk. Extremely hardy.

SABAL PALMETTO (*cabbage palmetto*)—Broad leaf fan palm of heavy massive appearance and slow growth. Very hardy. Adapted to wide variety of soils. Will finally grow into a single trunk, erect tree. Leaves interestingly twisted and recurved in midrib. Each side segments extending almost to midrib.

TRITHRINAX ACANTHOCOMA—Fig. 11. Handsome South American fan palm (Brazil) well deserving a better place in our landscape. Proves to be hardy in Southern California. Leaves of good dark green color, interestingly cut into long segments, each leaf split into three individual fans. As pretty as this palm is, beware of the trunk. It's covered with spines. Grows slowly to 12 feet.

WASHINGTONIA FILIFERA (*Desert Fan Palm*) — California fan palm. This is the only palm native to California, growing wild in Palm Canyon in the Coachella Valley. Makes a massive trunk, often 3½ feet in diameter, has very large leaves on long leaf-stems, leaves fringed with coarse white hairs. Very hardy, stands almost anything in heat, also considerable cold; fast growing, attains a height of 35-40 feet.

WASHINGTONIA ROBUSTA (*correctly W. gracilis*)—Fig. 15. Similar to the preceding but much more slender trunk, usually only about 16 inches in diameter, but faster grower, attaining a height of 75 to 100 feet. Leaves smaller, with shorter stems and fewer filaments. Very extensively planted. Both of these palms will be much more effective if grouped either with their own species or other palms, than when planted in rows or single pairs.

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